

**WEST DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD PROCEEDINGS**  
**Thursday, February 19, 2015**

The meeting of the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order on Thursday, February 19, at 5:30 p.m. by Rick Swalwell.

<b>Commission</b>	Heather Schebel	Rick Swalwell	Forrest Ridgway	Mike Chambers	Joe Hrdlicka
<b>Present</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

<b>Staff</b>	Susan Mathews <i>Parks &amp; Recreation Administrative Secretary</i>	Sally Ortgies <i>Superintendent of Parks</i>	Greg Hansen <i>Superintendent of Recreation</i>	Gary Scott <i>Director of Parks &amp; Recreation</i>
<b>Present</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

**On Item 1. Approval of Agenda**

Ridgway moved to approve the agenda as presented. Hrdlicka seconded. Motion carried.

**On Item 2. Citizen Forum**

No items.

**On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of January 15, 2015 Meeting**

Ridgway moved to approve the minutes as presented. Schebel seconded. Motion carried.

**On Item 4. Old Business**

No items.

**Public Hearings:**

**On Item 5A. Park Naming: Motion – Approval of Recommendation to City Council**

Chair Swalwell stated that this is the time and place for a public hearing to consider Park Naming initiated by the City of West Des Moines. He asked on what date was the notice published. Staff responded that the notice was published Friday, February 13, 2015 in the Des Moines Register. He asked if any comments have been received. Staff responded that none had been received. He asked for verbal comments from the audience. No comments were made. Chair Swalwell declared the public hearing closed and asked the Board for discussion. Ridgway asked how staff created the name. Scott responded that staff look at previously suggested names as well as the geography and history of the site. He added that the developer of the area wants to name the street to match the park so street names also came into consideration.

Chambers moved to approve the name Hidden Point Park. Hrdlicka seconded. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

**On Item 6A. Motion - City Use of Phenix School Gym and Playground - Approval of Recommendation to City Council**

Scott gave background information on the City's acquisition of the Phenix school site. Scott noted that two items involve Parks & Recreation: The gymnasium space and the playgrounds. He added that staff toured the gymnasium and the cost to bring it up to useable standards and the cost to operate it makes it a

poor investment in the long-term. Scott shared there are three playgrounds on the site. One playground is so old it will need to be removed. One is on the land that will potentially be sold to the housing developer who is not interested in keeping the equipment. One is newer and was funded by Phenix family/faculty club and grant funding. Scott noted that he has heard there is interest in keeping the later playground to be used by the neighborhood. He added that staff has viewed the playground and has reason to believe there will be extensive updating needed to bring it to our standards and the continued maintenance costs need to be considered. Scott added that the area is already served by multiple playgrounds located at Wilson and Legion parks as well as a playground at Hillside elementary school. Alternatives and options for moving, restoring and donating the equipment was discussed. Councilman Trimble stated that the progressive economic development concept will be a benefit for Valley Junction and that if things were different it might be worth it to try to save and maintain the playground. Chambers moved to approve the staff recommendation and recommend approval by City Council that 1. The gym at Phenix School not be taken over by the City of West Des Moines to run programs at the site and 2. The three outdoor playgrounds located on the Phenix School grounds be removed prior to the transfer of the Phenix School to Community Housing Corporation, at an estimated cost of \$37,200. Ridgway seconded. Motion carried.

**On Item 6B. Motion - Request for Technical Assistance - Trust for Public Land**

Scott noted that to retain their non-profit status Trust for Public Land needs the community to ask for their assistance.

Hrdlicka moved to approve the Request for Technical Assistance – Trust for Public Land. Chambers seconded. Motion carried.

**Staff Reports:**

**On Item 7A. Superintendent of Parks**

Ortgies reported that staff is already gearing up for spring and that hiring of seasonal staff is underway. Chambers asked about Emerald Ash Borer plans for 2015. Ortgies responded that treatments on trees on public property, including parks, as well as removals, will begin this spring. Ortgies shared that the Parks & Recreation's Green Team has applied for a water quality initiative grant through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. She added that their pre-application was one of 10 selected to apply for the actual grant funds. The proposal includes introducing native plantings on the hill above the City Campus pond as well as soil restoration on the turf areas to improve run-off.

**On Item 7B. Superintendent of Recreation**

Hansen provided a follow up from the December meeting by sharing that he learned Ankeny spent \$900,000 on the flow rider installed at their aquatic center. He also added that Cascade Falls operates primarily as a destination and all swim lessons have been moved to Prairie Ridge allowing them to maintain the waterpark atmosphere throughout the evening hours. He added that spring/summer registration begins for residents on March 10, the program guide will be mailed about a week before registration. Schebel asked about keeping the pools open later based on school calendar schedule. Hansen responded that the aquatic centers will remain open as long as staffing allows. Other revenue generating options for the aquatic facilities were discussed.

**On Item 7C. Director of Parks and Recreation**

Scott shared that staff will meet with consultant tomorrow to discuss the third phase of Holiday Park renovations. He noted that Board members should have the following events on their calendars for this spring: Grand Opening for Holiday Park on May 19, Art on the Campus Grand Opening on April 30 and the Mayor's Bike Ride on May 16. Scott shared that staff have met with the WDM Girls Softball representatives in regard to the CIP funding that will be allocated for sidewalk improvements and new

bleachers. Staff also met with WDM Soccer representatives regarding their long term needs and their interest in a dome facility. Scott informed the Board of two requests that will be considered at the March meeting: a deck court league endorsed by the Iowa Wild and a riverboat at Raccoon River Park. Trimble inquired about the potential for paddleboat rentals at Raccoon River Park. Scott responded that it would be great but the issue is storage. He added that around 10 years ago a vendor transported paddle boats in and out of the park on a trial basis but he stopped because there was not a lot of demand at that time.

On Item 8. Other Matters

Hrdlicka shared that at the Community Enrichment Foundation had made a \$2,500 donation to the survey fundraising effort.

Receive, File and/or Refer:

On Item 9A. City Council Communications

February 9, 2015: Motion – Approval of Amendment to Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan

February 9, 2015: Motion – Amendment to City Code, Title 7 (Public Ways and Property), Chapter 10 (Trees and Shrubs) City Initiated; 1. Ordinance – Approval of First Reading

February 9, 2015: Resolution - Approval of Grant Application - Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Water Quality Initiative Targeted Demonstration Watershed Projects - West Des Moines City/School Campus Pond Watershed Improvements

On Item 9B. From Bicycle Advisory Commission – February 5, 2015: Review – Des Moines Area MPO, Central Iowa Bicycle-Pedestrian Roundtable Packet

Schebel moved to adjourn. Chambers seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Mathews  
Administrative Secretary

ATTEST:

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Heather Schebel  
Advisory Board Secretary